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TANA FINDS U.S. PRESIDENT GUILTY OF CRIMES

PA151849 Paris AFP in Spanish 0043 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Quito, 14 Feb (AFP) -- During its second "trial," held last night at Quito's Central University, the city's supreme educational institution, the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, found U.S. President Ronald Reagan guilty of "crimes against mankind."

Despite the U.S. President's best intentions to appear otherwise, he was found guilty on the basis of ample documentation submitted by his accusers. These documents stressed U.S. intervention in Central America, the Caribbean, and South America, and presented overwhelming antecedents stretching as far back as the founding of the United States, which included the incorporation of Texas, Arizona, and California into U.S. territory after a struggle with Mexico.

TANA was founded on 21 September 1981 in Managua as the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Central America and the Caribbean, and incorporated Central American perspectives and the participation of Nicaraguan revolutionary leaders and Central American personalities.

MCCOMIE MAY NOT GET TOP OAS POST DUE TO GRENADA

FL152358 Bridgetown CANA in English 2103 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 15 (CANA) -- Division among Central American states over last October's invasion of Grenada could make it difficult for Barbadian diplomat Val McComie to be elected secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS) next month, Dominica's ambassador to the Washington-based hemispheric body, Frank Baron, said here today.

Addressing a Rotary Club luncheon, Baron said various Central American states whom the Caribbean had been hoping would back McComie's candidature had now expressed reservations, mainly because several Caribbean member states, including Barbados, had taken part in the October 25 invasion. Troops from the U.S. and seven Caribbean states jointly intervened in the island to put down a military junta that had six days earlier seized power and executed the prime minister.

With the Caribbean already having 10 members in the 31-strong OAS, they had hoped that the Central American states, with 11 voting seats, would have thrown their weight behind McComie, and thus ensure a majority of 21 votes, Baron said. But, he added: "McComie may find it difficult to get the post because Central America has been divided on the Grenada issue." Mr McComie, a former Barbados ambassador to Washington, is now assistant secretary general of the OAS.

Baron said that some Central American states had denounced the American-led intervention on human rights grounds, but he added: "They (Central American states) all have military governments."

"We should teach them something about democratic government," he declared.

Elections for the post of OAS secretary general will be held in March this year. Alejandro Orfila is the current holder of the post. Baron said that in the past the practice had been for the assistant secretary general to hold onto the post until elections, but he added, "The Latin American countries said the post is too prestigious for the Caribbean."

McComie's strongest opponent is a Brazilian diplomat.

ECONOMY MINISTER MEETS WITH NICARAGUAN MINISTER

PY151205 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0020 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (TELAM) -- Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun today reviewed the economic ties between our country and Nicaragua during a meeting this afternoon with Nicaraguan Reconstruction Minister Edmundo Jarquin. The 1-hour meeting was also attended by Argentine Foreign Trade Under Secretary Nestor Stancanelli and Nicaraguan Ambassador to Buenos Aires Ricardo Zambrana Diaz.

At the end of the meeting, Jarquin emphasized that this is Nicaragua's first official mission to Argentina "since Commander Ortega attended Alfonsin's inauguration."

Jarquin said that the talks concentrated on an overall review of the economic ties between Argentina and Nicaragua. This is consistent with a similar stance which the two governments adopted in multilateral forums on economic and financial issues.

Jarquin added: We reviewed the cooperation that our mission is receiving from the Argentine economic authorities in the trade sector and probed the possibility of signing a limited agreement within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI).

In response to a question, Jarquin stated that they have looked into the utilization of a credit line of $15 million which Argentina opened for Nicaragua in 1982, and that they also looked into the possibility of technical cooperation in the agriculture and livestock, industrial, and transportation sectors. Regarding the meetings held yesterday with Stancanelli and Argentine Secretary of Commerce Ricardo Campero, Jarquin said that they discussed the implementation and technical aspects of these issues.

USSR, FRANCE OFFER TO FINANCE ELECTRIC PROJECT

PY152120 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The president of the Water and Power Corporation has stated in Salta that the government will continue the Yacyreta-Apipe complex. He pointed out that at present the corporation is working on the (Los Blancos) and (El Vaqueano) enterprises in Mendoza and the Rio Grande plant in Cordoba.

In referring to the Middle Parana complex, he pointed out that it is the largest hydroelectric plant to be built in the country and that it will produce the same quantity of energy currently produced throughout the country. He also said that the studies for this project have been completed and that they have already been submitted in the Energy Secretariat. Once the decisions have been made, the preparatory work on the site of the plant will take a few years. He pointed out that the Soviets and French have offered to finance this project and said that in about 10 years Argentina will probably enjoy that vast network, which will allow all the towns in the country to have electricity.

FORMER MILITARY COMMANDERS APPEAL TRIAL PROCESS

PY151733 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- Six of the former military commanders-in-chief who are on trial by the Armed Forces Supreme Council for having allegedly ordered the use of illegal repressive methods filed appeals with the Supreme Court of Justice, the Council's secretary said yesterday.

Colonel Jorge Gonzales Ramirez did not specify the names of the former commanders whose counsels filed the appeals. They reportedly object to the legitimacy of the trials on the grounds of the National Pacification Law -- better known as the amnesty law -- issued by the former military regime in September and repealed by Congress soon after the constitutional government was inaugurated. Earlier reports said former Air Force Commander Orlando Agosti, of the regime's first junta, had filed such an appeal.

Gonzalez said former Commanders Leopoldo Galtieri, Jorge Anaya, and Basilio Lami Dozo, of the Army, Navy and Air Force, respectively, will appear before the Council next week to testify on charges of having mishandled the Malvinas war.

When queried on why six former commanders had been summoned to testify in their respective human rights violations trials on Monday, when the appearance of only one had been announced, Gonzalez said the cases were "speeded up because we did not want to delay testimony in the Malvinas cases."

Some observers said President Raul Alfonsin himself was responsible for the swifter pace set on Monday. Former Army Commander Roberto Viola appeared before the Council on Monday, as announced, but he was later followed by Galtieri, Anaya, Lami Dozo, former Air Force Commander Omar Graffigna, and former Navy Commander Armando Lambruschini.

Gonzalez said retired Rear-Admiral Ruben Chamorro, a former director of the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA) who is widely suspected of human rights violations, will appear before the Council "when he arrives." Chamorro was summoned last week to appear before the Council "immediately," but has not done so to date and is suspected of being abroad.

ALFONSIN TO SPEAK ON ECONOMICS, ENERGY 16 FEB

PY151756 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] A high-ranking government official announced a few minutes ago that President Raul Alfonsin will speak tomorrow on the government's economic and energy policies. Shortly after 1030 tomorrow, the head of state will preside over a ceremony in Ensenada marking the initiation of the enlargement of the General Mosconi petrochemical plant. The project will call for an investment of more than $100 million. Energy Secretary Conrado Storani will also speak during the ceremony.

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO MEDIATE BUS STRIKE

PY151743 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] (DYN) -- UTA Secretary General Rene Aznar announced late last night that the government had agreed to mediate in the dispute with employers and as a result the union would lift its strike. Aznar was speaking after a one-and-a-half-hour meeting with presidential secretary German Lopez.

Strike Lifted, Talks Continue

PY160230 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0135 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (TELAM) -- The Motor Transport Workers Union (UTA) tonight decided to lift, as of midnight, the strike which started at 1800 on 3 February. The decision was reached after a general meeting of union delegates held this afternoon at UTA headquarters with UTA head Rene Azar presiding.

The decision came at the end of a long and strained debate during which the workers were briefed on what had been done to that point. Azar said: "No one won this game, we all lost. We did not yield our position and the businessmen promised to rehire 98 percent of the long- and medium-distance bus drivers who had been fired (no one has been fired among short-distance drivers) and the reinstatement of the remaining 2 percent will be negotiated next week." The leader of UTA also said that the items which gave rise to the 12-day long stoppage will be negotiated beginning next week.

Azar stressed that the agreement had been reached thanks to the good offices of Labor and Transport Secretaries Gabriel Matzquin and Daniel Batalla, respectively, and of Presidential Secretary General German Lopez who, according to Azar, handled the matter on a special request from the president of the nation.

FRG POST-COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ARRIVES

PY152100 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] FRG Post and Telecommunications Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling arrived in Argentina today. The FRG minister, who will remain in our country until Saturday, February 18, will hold meetings with national authorities and will discuss matters regarding the 19th Post Offices Congress to be held in Hamburg in June.

SIP CANCELS PREVIOUS PRESS PASS SYSTEM

PY151316 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2142 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (TELAM) -- It has been officially announced here that the Public Information Secretariat (SIP) today cancelled the previous system of passes for national and foreign journalists to participate in official ceremonies.

The previous pass system included more than 10 different kinds of passes which had to be requested in advance and in some cases the applicants had to submit extensive statements on their political and ideological backgrounds.

The SIP measure is based on an announcement made at the end of last year.

The SIP stated that the system that has been cancelled was adopted by the military regime, adding that the new system "acknowledges the validity of professional passes and of those granted by the various news agencies to participate in official acts and ceremonies in Government House."

The SIP said that only one kind of pass will be granted now, which will be a 1-year renewable pass enabling journalists to use Government House facilities.

GAS SALE TALKS WITH ARGENTINA TO START 27 FEB

PY151250 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Negotiations to fix new prices for natural gas exported by Bolivia to Argentina will begin in Buenos Aires on 27 February. Last year, Bolivia sold $378 million worth of gas to Argentina. Of this total, over $200 million still remains to be paid.

The prices agreed upon during the talks in January 1983 were in effect until 31 December. In this new round of talks, Bolivian officials will approach the price adjustment problem, taking into account the interests of the country.

MINERS BLOCK HIGHWAYS, RAILROADS; ISOLATE CITIES

Blockage Begins

PY151425 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The National Federation of Bolivian Mining Cooperatives [Federacion Nacional de Cooperativas Mineras de Bolivia -- FENCOMIN] has reported in a document addressed to the public that the blocking of roads, which has been undertaken because of the irresponsibility and dilatory policy of the government in not paying the adjusted prices for ore deliveries, has been enforced in an orderly manner. According to the document, the roadblocks will be maintained until the full payment of the adjusted prices according to agreements signed with the government.

FENCOMIN has given Radio Panamericana a list of the areas where the roads have been blocked. They are: the access and exit roads of Potosi City; the Cochabamba-Oruro Highway; the international railway line (trains for Antofagasta and Villazon at Uyuni); and the access and exit roads of the Oruro mining districts. The access and exit roads of La Paz City have been blocked by the La Paz Federation of Mining Cooperatives. In addition, the Regional Gold-Mining Federation of Tipuani has declared a stoppage and the blocking of the roads into the Yungas area.

The FENCOMIN communique concludes by instructing all departmental and regional organizations to stay in permanent contact with FENCOMIN and to be alert for further instructions.

According to reports from the interior of the country, the first day of roadblocks proved to be effective.

Clashes Ensue

PY160200 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Report from Oruro by unidentified correspondent]

[Excerpt] Huanuni mineworkers and nearly 1,000 Huanuni cooperative workers who were blocking the roads in the area clashed this afternoon in La Tranca, on the Oruro-Huanuni Road.

According to information gathered by Panamericana, these brawls resulted in a Huanuni mineworker being hit in the leg by a bullet, several vehicles having their windshields shattered, and several cooperative workers being injured.

According to the information gathered by this correspondent, a delegation of Huanuni mineworkers leaders showed up at La Tranca in order to act as mediators and to insist that the roadblock set up by the cooperative workers be lifted to let the vehicles transporting staples and materials through to bring things back to normal in that district. These efforts, however, were violently rejected by the cooperative workers, who flatly refused to consider the request made by the mineworkers. Brawls ensued which led the cooperative workers to retreat toward Oruro and the mineworkers to return to their mining district.

The cooperative workers, who were back in Oruro at approximately 1530, gathered in front of their headquarters on 6 October Avenue and blocked the avenue completely, preventing pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

At the time of this dispatch, all of the workers, numbering approximately 500, are at the offices of the Federation of Factory Workers, where they are holding a hunger strike and claiming that their stance is irrevocable.

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CHANGE SUCCESSION RULES

PY151720 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The government will not change the rules for the presidential succession. This position was made known to the four Social Democratic Party [PDS] presidential hopefuls in a 2-hour meeting at Planalto Palace.

Yet if the National Congress approves the Oliveira amendment, which establishes direct elections, Planalto Palace will go along with the decision.

Reporter Sandra Carvalho now reports from Brasilia:

[Begin Carvalho recording] We are here at Planalto Palace, where a meeting of PDS presidential hopefuls has just concluded. It has been announced that the rules established for the presidential election will not be changed.

President Figueiredo will not send any bill to the National Congress proposing the reestablishment of direct elections either for now or for 1990, according to an official note released here at the end of the meeting.

The note says that President Figueiredo considers that the election of his successor, by the electoral college elected in 1982, in accordance with the Constitution, is part of his political opening program.

The note says that President Figueiredo has strongly asked the PDS presidential hopefuls to try to preserve the unity of the party, which is indispensable to win at the Electoral College, during their electoral campaigns.

The note adds that the presidential hopefuls reassured President Figueiredo of their full solidarity and support for his political leadership and regard his advice and support as indispensable for maintaining unity within the PDS.

The note says that every aspect of the national situation was discussed at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 11 government officials: the 4 presidential hopefuls, 5 cabinet members, the justice minister, and PDS President Jose Sarney.

According to Deputy Paulo Maluf, the note released at the end of the meeting reflects the consensus of those who attended it.

Speaking at Jaburu Palace, Vice President Aureliano Chaves said he still maintains the position he had before attending the meeting; that is, he still supports direct elections. He said he will not change his position.

Minister Mario Andreaza said he is satisfied with the meeting. [end recording]

CHAVES DENIES RESIGNATION PLANS DUE TO CANDIDACY

PY150217 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Brasilia -- Before leaving for Teresina yesterday, Vice President Aureliano Chaves said that he does not plan to resign as vice president because of his decision to run for president.

"This is ridiculous. The vice presidency is a function, not a post," he said.

Aureliano Chaves explained that if there is the need for him to take over as acting president after the legal deadline which has been set for 14 July, there are many ways to deal with the incompatibility of being a candidate for president and holding a government post:

"I could travel or claim presidential candidate status at that point. That is all there is to it," Chaves said.

According to Aureliano Chaves, defending direct elections does not mean opposing Figueiredo's administration even though "it is not necessary for the vice president to always be in full agreement with the president." He explained that his stand stems from the lessons which he learned as a politician that one should not neglect the desire of the people. He added, however, that he does not plan to join the campaign the opposition is carrying out in favor of direct elections, because he feels that such an action would be incompatible with his current functions.

PCB WILLING TO 'NEGOTIATE' SUPPORT FOR CHAVES

PY151132 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Feb 84 p 3

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo -- Giocondo Dias, secretary general of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], yesterday stated that if direct elections are not reestablished, the Communists will be willing to negotiate their support for Vice President Aureliano Chaves in indirect elections. Dias explained: "Our struggle is not to end with the approval of the amendment reestablishing direct elections. We do not have a direct-or-nothing position."

In an interview with JORNAL DO BRASIL to refute accusations that the PCB is actively engaged in the direct elections campaign, Dias said: "The accusation that we favor negotiations is correct. We are not for accomodation. We want negotiations to bring about a change, so that there can be a power transfer and the people can have a chance to participate."

The PCB secretary general said that the PCB sees Aureliano Chaves as the "man of transition" toward democracy, and that the strategy, if direct elections are not restored, is to support him in exchange for three basic commitments that he is expected to accept: Call for a National Constituent Assembly; shorten the presidential term of office or install a "buffer mandate" with direct elections to follow; and reform the party system, permitting the legalization of the PCB.

Dias said that the PCB negotiation with Aureliano Chaves will be conducted through Tancredo Neves, governor of Minas Gerais State. He added that the Communists reject the possibility that Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Movement, can be the intermediary in the negotiations, because he "has radicalized the issue and his position is now no longer applicable."

ARGENTINA REQUESTS MONTONEROS' EXTRADITION

PY150230 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel yesterday afternoon ordered the administrative arrest of Mario Eduardo Firmenich and Fernando Vaca Narvaja -- leaders of the Peronist Montonero Movement. Argentine President Raul Alfonsin asked through his embassy in Brasilia that the two former extremists be extradited, but Minister Abi-Ackel turned the case over to the Supreme Federal Court [STF].

The Argentine Government claims that the two extremists are facing "warrants for their arrest as a result of various lawsuits in which they are charged with homicide, illegal association, and violation of public order." The request submitted for their extradition was backed up by evidence of the crimes perpetrated by the two Argentines and the STF will have to decide the extradition on the basis of the available evidence.

Mario Firmenich (secretary general of the Montonero Movement), who has been living in Brazil since November, has sired a Brazilian son -- Facundo Jose Firmenich Martinez -- who was born in Rio de Janeiro on 25 January. Fernando Vaca Narvaja (secretary for foreign relations of the Montonero Movement) also arrived in Brazil in last November to attend the fourth meeting of the South American Democratic and Popular Parties. His current whereabouts are unknown.

CORRECTION TO FIGUEIREDO SPEECH IN SANTA CRUZ

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "President Figueiredo Speaks in Santa Cruz," published in the 14 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page D 3, first paragraph, line five, which should read:

"...We tried to come up not with a strategy for confrontation..." (changed from "...not only a strategy...")

SAFE-CONDUCTS DENIED TO NUNCIATURE REFUGEES

PY151230 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has stated that the government is under no obligations to grant safe-conducts to the extremists who are occupying the Apostolic Nunciature. A declaration published by the Foreign Ministry refutes statements allegedly made by some sectors. According to those statements, the Chilean Government would fail to comply with international agreements or treaties if it does not issue the safe-conducts. The Foreign Ministry declaration says that such statements are groundless, since there is no treaty whatever compelling Chile to grant such safe-conducts.

The Foreign Ministry adds that the Constitution says that all types of terrorism are basically contrary to human rights. The document further says that acts of terrorism should always be considered as common crimes, not as political crimes. The communique concludes by saying that Chile has always supported, at all international meetings, measures to prevent and punish acts of terrorism.

POLITICIANS REACT TO POLITICAL PARTY LAW

PY151930 [Editorial Report] Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish in its 2 February Morning Edition published on page 9, under the headline "Summer Season Turmoil Ensues From Draft Bill on Politics," a 1,500-word unattributed report on statements made by several political leaders.

Andres Chadwick, a leader of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI), is quoted as saying that "the draft bill is pretty good," and that "it is important that membership requirements for establishing a party not be set too high in order to facilitate its founding." Federico Willoughby, a leader of the National Action Movement (MAN), is quoted as saying that "perhaps the number of party members required is at odds with the policy of establishing large political groups," and that "we believe that the membership requirements should be significantly higher." He added "it is important that headway be made toward establishing a means for citizen control and for the ideas of the people to be freely voiced."

Juan Hamilton, a former senator and minister, is quoted as saying that "it is too early to make statements on these moves since they are only partially known through what was published in the press yesterday," but, "there is no doubt that it is satisfactory that there is official recognition of the need and the significance of the political parties as ways of channeling the people's participation in politics."

Rene Abeliuk, a leader of the Social Democrats, is quoted as saying that "first, it must be borne in mind that these are only draft bills," and that "second, although the drafting of these bills is a step forward, beyond a doubt they are the result of the pressure exerted by the people." He added that "they are coming into being without the people's participation and completely ignoring the stances of all political trends." His "third" point is that "this may simply be a move to gain time, since the head of state said some time ago that the law on political parties would be drafted last."

Fernando Ochagavia, a leader of the National Party, is quoted as saying that the draft bill "is a starting point for reviewing legislation."

Narciso Irureta Aburto, a former senator and vice president of the Christian Democratic Party, submitted a statement on 1 February which reads: "1. In due time, we, along with all the members of the Democratic Alliance, will make a more detailed statement on this draft bill on political parties, which was drafted by a group of pro-government lawyers; 2. The draft bill abounds in technical and regulatory details which are only relevant to the legal profession. In the future, it will be possible to draw a comparison between this draft bill and the studies conducted by several democratic organizations, especially the Group of 24; 3. But right now, what really matters, in a draft bill like this one, is its orientation and its goals. It is quite obvious that this draft bill is completely consistent with the existing dictatorial rule and, in this regard, it makes no contribution to the country's democratization. This distorts it and makes it antidemocratic. Its trademark is shown in Article 3, which establishes that the political parties must explicitly state in their charter 'their submission to the constitutional order in force.'"

Lautaro Ojeda, a former deputy and the acting secretary general of the Radical Party, is quoted as saying that "it is positive that discussions are being held on a statute on political parties, but with the understanding that it would be a substantially temporary piece of legislation and that the definitive legislation must be enacted by a Congress freely elected by the people." Leopoldo Brull, a leader of the Radical Democrats (DR), is quoted as saying that "the DR executive board has received with satisfaction the announcement on the submission of the draft bill to the Interior Ministry since this certainly means a breakthrough in the transition stage."

MDP CHIEF IMPRISONED FOR DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER

PY151754 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The courts have ordered the imprisonment of Manuel Almeyda for disturbing public order and inciting a national strike. The decision, announced by a trial judge, was immediately executed. The leader of the so-called Popular Democratic Movement was taken to the Santiago public prison by a squad of gendarmes. The judge stated that Almeyda has violated the norms of the state security law by calling, openly and through pamphlets, for paralyzing the activities of the country. Almeyda has also repeatedly spoken in favor of overthrowing the legal government. The last time that he openly stirred up public disorder was when a political rally was held in the Caupolican amphitheater.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL'S CAR BOMBED IN ARICA

PY152215 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Relay from Arica by correspondent (Hector Merida)]

[Text] Good afternoon, this is a special report from Arica for Radio Cooperativa.

Early this morning a terrorist attack was staged against the car of the chairman of the Arica Human Rights Commission. His car was blown up and a downtown condominium was endangered because the vehicle caught fire while parked near two large gas tanks that supply the 80 apartments of the condominium. The explosion took place at 0315 and caused considerable concern because the flames threatened several other vehicles parked nearby.

Dr [name indistinct] reported that the fuel tank of his car was full and did not explode thanks only to the prompt action of the neighbors and the firemen who arrived with the police. The chairman, who is also a medical doctor and takes care of the political prisoners in Arica prison, pointed out that the attack was perpetrated only 6 days after a self-styled anticommunist commando group attempted to set fire to two Catholic chapels.

Early this morning two unknown persons arrived in a Datsun car, threw a fire bomb, and left rapidly. The doctor said that the only damage was to the vehicle, which was destroyed, but added that the aim of the operation was to intimidate him, which will not happen because human rights must be defended in Chile now more than ever.

The Christian Democratic Party, whose regional president lives in the same condominium, condemned the attack. Negative reactions were also voiced by neighborhood committees, labor unions, and women's organizations.

The Workers Command stressed that the attack took place only 2 days before Rodolfo Seguel's scheduled visit to Arica. In the opinion of the Workers Command, the attack is part of a maneuver directed at curtailing popular participation in the welcoming meeting for the union leader and in all other demonstrations against the current regime in this city.

The Arica branch of the human rights commission today announced that it has filed a petition for an injunction and that it will publicly call upon the local government authorities to clarify the attack on its president and similar events a few days ago which involved two Catholic chapels.

Investigation Demanded

PY152335 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Jaime Castillo Velasco, chairman of the Chilean Human Rights Commission, has commented on the attack against the chairman of the Arica branch of the Human Rights Commission. Castillo Velasco said that he was unable to name those responsible for the attack, but hoped that a thorough investigation would be conducted to unearth the facts.

The chairman of the Chilean Human Rights Commission said that he approved of the petition for an injunction that has been submitted and of any legal steps that could be taken to establish the truth. He stressed that such attacks, as well as any other terrorist actions, are highly reprehensible, regardless of their source.

CHILEAN REPORTEDLY HELD IN PERU FOR ESPIONAGE

PY151811 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is gathering background material regarding the alleged detention of a Chilean in Peru. Jose Manuel Ovalle, Foreign Ministry under secretary for bilateral policy, has reported that the ministry is gathering background information regarding the case.

A news report says that the Lima police have arrested Chilean Hernan Toro Pinedo, 43, who has been put at the disposal of the Peruvian courts, charged with espionage for two unnamed neighboring countries.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON PANAMA'S GOVERNMENT CHANGE

PA151928 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian Government, regarding the change of president that occurred yesterday in Panama, has pointed out in a communique released by the Foreign Ministry that this change was part of a normal process that abided by the Panamanian Constitution's regulation on presidential succession.

The communique added that after the change Colombian President Belisario Betancur talked over the telephone with the outgoing president, the new president, Jorge Illueca, and Panamanian Defense Force Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega. They reiterated to President Betancur that the process had been entirely normal and expressed their desire to maintain the closest possible relations with the Colombian Government. In addition, they expressed their unwavering and firm determination to continue participating in the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo today said that the government change in Panama does not at all alter Colombia's relations with Panama or Contadora's efforts to try and restore peace in Central America.

BETANCUR COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT AMNESTY

PA150410 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Feb 84 p 7-A

[Text] President Belisario Betancur has revealed that to date, some 2,000 rebels have formally taken advantage of the amnesty, amounting to a full third of the rebels operating in Colombia. He added that all of these rebels will be granted amnesty unless they are accused of serious crimes.

In an interview with the Caracas newspaper EL NACIONAL, Betancur also announced that Colombia and Venezuela are preparing to resume talks on their border disputes. When he was questioned about the result of his administration's efforts to promote domestic peace, the Colombian leader said:

"Allow me to explain. The fact that we talk about peace in Colombia does not mean that we are at war. Yes, we have talked about peace, and will continue to do so, but we are really pursuing something of a coexistence policy, the first step being a broad and generous retroactive amnesty. It involves forgiving and forgetting, which is a sort of dividing line, but as I said, a retroactive one. The amnesty will not extend into the future, because this would be in disregard of the law. Some 2,000 rebels have taken advantage of the amnesty, amounting to one third of them, more or less. However, all of you -- pay close attention -- all of you have been granted amnesty unless you have committed serious crimes. We are now finally implementing the rehabilitation plan for areas affected by public disturbances. Some 60 billion Colombian pesos will be allocated to this plan. However, there are obstacles, as usual. Nevertheless, I realize that we cannot wipe out 35 years of violence in my country with only a year of amnesty."

Do military statements against your pursuit of peace and your foreign policy have any meaning, or are they simply momentary disturbances?

"At first glance, your question seems to disregard two important aspects of Colombia's National Constitution. The first is that the president of the republic is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and his decisions as such are respected. The second is that the president, and only the president, makes foreign policy. The Foreign Ministry officials, from the minister on down, implement it."

Even though political peace may be achieved, it is difficult to maintain social peace without eliminating the abysmal economic differences and without a better income distribution among the Colombian people.

How do you plan to face a battle with social classes who refuse to make even the smallest of concessions?

"It is true that there is extreme poverty in Colombia. However, though this is not consolation or justification, this poverty also exists in the United States, France, and Venezuela. One of mankind's greatest problems is the appalling income distribution. I have therefore said that in every subversive process there are both subjective or personal causes and objective or impersonal causes. The former are represented by the guerrillas themselves, who take up arms and march into the mountains. The latter are represented by the lack of education, housing, health care, and water and sewage systems. The personal causes have already been treated with the amnesty; the latter are being treated with specific actions. Without peace, there is no social justice and without social justice, there is no economic development. The social classes refuse to make the smallest of concessions? I do not know why you say that. I should invite you to come to Colombia, to witness the process being experienced there."

What about the dispute with Colombia?

"The Venezuelan Government has been in office for only a few hours. It is completely involved with many other issues that unite us. As for what you call a dispute, I can only tell you that we are preparing to resume talks, within a framework of excellent relations."

SHOOT-OUT IN GUATAVITA; CURFEW IMPOSED

PA160010 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Feb 84 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Text] Confusing events took place yesterday in Guatavita when two groups of conservatists confronted each other in a shoot-out. The incident forced Mayor Samuel Francisco Torres to decree a dry law and curfew as of 1900.

Cundinamarca Governor Julio Cesar Sanchez Garcia asked Guatavita's police commander and mayor to submit a detailed report on the situation in the town since Saturday, when an unidentified person attacked Mayor Torres. Two persons have been arrested. Late Sunday the mayor requested police reinforcements and reported that the situation in Guatavita was calm but tense. Sanchez Garcia stated that, due to the seriousness of the incidents, his office summoned the groups involved to his office on Monday for separate meetings.

Sanchez Garcia added that early Monday morning Government Minister Jaime Robayo Rodriguez and an adviser to that ministry visited Guatavita to get first-hand information on the situation and seek a prompt solution.

It was learned that the adviser will report to the mayor's office while the investigations into the incident are continuing. Sources close to the mayor's office have reported that 15 days ago Alfredo Gutierrez, former mayor of Guatavita, visited the town and was threatened with death by 10 men. The former mayor had to be escorted to Sesquile to prevent a lynching.

Governor Sanchez Garcia dictated a communique to the major via telephone to be read over loudspeakers. The communique asks the town residents to remain calm and reiterates that he will offer all guarantees for the conservatists' campaign to continue "without provocations or insult" that would alter public order.

BRIEFS

COFFEE RUST DAMAGE -- A total of 117,862 coffee trees have been affected by the coffee rust blight in Caldas, Risaralda, and Antioquia Departments, the National Federation of Coffee Growers and the Colombian Agricultural-Livestock Institute reported today. A total of 285 coffee farms have been affected in five municipalities in Caldas alone. [Summary] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 84 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE -- The Colombian Government has appointed Miguel Escobar Mendez as the new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Holy See, replacing Jose Manuel Rivas Chacon. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Feb 84 PA]

ARREST OF DRUG TRAFFICKER -- Humberto Delgado, a former Bolivian NCO, was arrested at the El Dorado International Airport in Bogota by representatives of the Attorney General's office while trying to bring 20 kg of pure cocaine into the country. Delgado, who had hidden the drug in a suitcase, tried to escape, leaving the suitcase behind, but after a search of a few hours he was caught inside the airport terminal. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Feb 84 p 5-B PA]

POLICE RAID SCHOOL, FIRE SHOTS, INCENSE STUDENTS

PA152207 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpts] This morning a police antiriot vehicle and 50 policemen raided Quito's Montufar National School, Dr Jaime Davila, the school's rector, has told Ecuador Radio. He added that about eight students were detained in their classrooms.

Davila explained that the students had begun an orderly demonstration against increased prices on products such as milk, oil, and other items, but that the police overreacted. The police even used a [word indistinct].

[Begin Davila recording] The presidents of the various departments met, and in view of the situation that all of Ecuador is experiencing, the students decided to carry out a peaceful demonstration against the economic measures that have been established.

When the students proceeded in an orderly manner they were confronted by the police, who sometimes seem to forget possible consequences, which might prove fatal. The police raided the school and entered the premises with [word indistinct]. This [word indistinct] stalled. Of course, the very fact that this means of repression was used on campus incensed the youngsters. It could not be otherwise. [passage indistinct]

I hereby raise my most vigorous protest on behalf of the professors, the students, and myself for this brutal provocation, for the large quantity of tear gas hurled, and for the police invasion. Many shots were fired to scare the students. This negative attitude, instead of calming things down, worsened them. [end recording]

Yesterday, Mejia National School Rector Carlos Inch also told Ecuador Radio that the police had hurled tear gas into his school. As a result, students had to be evacuated.

FOREIGN MINISTER VALENCIA VISITS ITALY

For reportage on Foreign Minister Valencia's visit to Italy, including his meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti, see the Italy & the Vatican section of the 15 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PAPER SAYS U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT UNBIASED

PY151226 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 10

[Editorial: "A Document That Deserves To Be Taken Into Account"]

[Text] As is customary, the U.S. State Department has submitted to the U.S. Congress a lengthy report on all the nations of the world. A chapter of this report, which is public, analyzes and comments on various aspects of the Paraguayan political, social, economic, and religious reality as well as the human rights situation in general in our country. Since the document is produced by the government of a nation that is a leading defender of freedom in the world -- a supremacy which our country acknowledges -- its content is of interest because we wish to learn what the U.S. authorities really think about Paraguay.

Similar reports have been drawn up on various occasions in the past by organizations that advocate the support for human rights as well as by international organizations such as the OAS or even the United Nations. The conclusions of these reports were always somewhat questionable, however, either because of their sources or the concealed interests that could have prompted observations unfavorable to the Paraguayan Government.

In the case of the 1983 State Department report none of this is applicable, not even the rejection which the previous, so-called "Carter-communist" administration may have provoked due to frictions between the U.S. diplomatic representative in Asuncion and the Paraguayan Government. However, the report that we are referring to now was issued by a government that is undoubtedly friendly to ours; therefore, it deserves our attention and analysis.

The text of the report, recently made public, contains observations that can hardly be ignored, such as the use which -- according to the report -- the executive branch is making of the state of siege to intimidate the opponents to its regime, or the fact that "the situation in Paraguay continues to be characterized by the subordination of the legislative and judicial branches to the executive branch and by the frequent violation of civilian and political liberties." At the same time the report asserts that "the police, using the power granted to them by the state of siege -- which is provided for by the Constitution -- and by the Paraguayan 'antisubversive' law, frequently and arbitrarily arrest persons and hold them in jail without bringing them to trial. The U.S. report then goes on to point out that the constitutional guarantees, such as the protection of the individual's integrity, the need for judicial norms, the freedom of assembly, the right to file a writ of habeas corpus, and the duty to carry out expeditious trials are often violated by government employees."

These are some of the observations included in the U.S. State Department report. Unless one wants to appear naive in political affairs he should not see any ulterior motive, nor the hand of Moscow, nor the "irregular" political opposition in Paraguay as being involved in that report. It is a report which -- although it may contian mistakes in evaluation or of another nature -- deserves our attention, especially because of its origin.

PATRIA HAILS U.S. AMBASSADOR, SLAMS OPPOSITION

PY160145 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 15 Feb 84 p 1

[Unattributed commentary: "Fire on Paraguay"]

[Text] At the end of his meeting with the foreign minister yesterday morning, the U.S. ambassador told the press, according to the afternoon daily ULTIMA HORA, that he had visited the minister "to clarify mistakes made by the international news media regarding the U.S. State Department report to Congress on the status of human rights in Paraguay." The diplomat said that "not only had the report been misinterpreted," but he also used the word "lies" in connection with the lack of democracy in Paraguay, and talked about "falsehoods published regarding the State Department report." After the statement of such a high-ranking figure who even went as far as to say that "in this country there is democracy," the bedlam which certain independent newspapers had cooked up using material supplied by the "international press," now totally discredited by the ambassador, has come to nothing.

Although we should say that it has taught us a useful lesson about the unjournalistic, unethical, and unprofessional haste to use and exploit spurious material to fuel the paper opposition that has been loosed among us and would seem to be part of an anti-Paraguayan conspiracy whose roots go far beyond our borders. On the same subject, we have found it strange that a newspaper, considering the scarce resources available to it as compared to those of an embassy, and especially of the U.S. Embassy, has been able to translate into Spanish a report that so far the embassy has been unable to release, a situation that must worry the ambassador, who has shown that he is ready and quick to deny lies, falsehoods, and misinterpretations. However, this is a minor point within the destabilization effort of the newspaper with the greatest circulation. The truth, the concrete fact is that there is a slogan which is being echoed throughout the world: "Fire on Paraguay." The sharpshooters seem to be entrenched in certain international agencies, and the firing directions come from certain Asuncion newspapers. This is a threat that we must bear in mind because there will not always be a brave and honest diplomat prepared to refute misinformation, as was the case now; and then lies, misinterpretations, and falsehoods could fulfill their mission, which is to create domestic confusion and to project a distorted image abroad.

30,000 LONGSHOREMEN STRIKE; SEAPORTS 'PARALYZED'

PY151940 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1625 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Lima, 15 Feb (EFE) -- Peruvian seaports were paralyzed today by a strike by 30,000 longshoremen who are demanding better salaries. The longshoremen stated that the strike is for 72 hours, but that if their demands are not met, they will begin an indefinite strike. At the Lima port of Callao, one of the most important South American Pacific Ocean ports, there are 14 ships that will suffer the consequences of the strike. During the 24-hour strike held a few days ago, the Marines and other workers had to help load and unload ships. This strike is in addition to the strike which 8,000 electrical workers have been holding for 2 weeks, also in demand for better salaries. According to the Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise [Electroperu], only 40 percent of the workers are on strike.

LEGUIA SAYS TERRORISTS, DRUG TRAFFICKERS LINKED

PY151559 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Labor Minister Joaquin Leguia stated in Government House today that terrorists are acting as strike forces for an army of people engaged in illegal drug-trafficking activities. Asked about his statement on the link between drug traffickers and terrorists, Leguia said: [Begin recording] I believe [words indistinct] that they are linked. There are too many coincidences. Moreover, if you look at it from the geographical viewpoint, terrorists are acting as a strike force, they make up the front lines of an army of drug traffickers who are operating behind these lines. [end recording]

TORRENTIAL RAINS, FLOODING ISOLATE LIMA

PY150310 Paris AFP in Spanish 0232 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Lima, 14 Feb (AFP) -- Torrential rains have isolated the Peruvian capital from the agricultural area in the Andean center of the country which supplies it with foodstuffs. Flooded rivers have also severed all forms of communication. The 5 million inhabitants of the capital spent their second day without potable water because the flooding of the Rimac River made it necessary to close the intakes of the water processing plant. The central railroad was severed today when the turbulent Rimac River increased its flow from the average of 350 liters per second to 200 cubic meters per second, tearing away a 30-meter-long bridge and leaving it 30 meters downstream.

Since yesterday the flooded Rimac River has also severed the central highway. A little girl drowned, hundreds of persons lost their homes, and many crops were lost. Yet another means of access to the agricultural and mining region of central Peru, The Lima-Huacho-Cerro de Pasco Highway, was cut off by landslides in the La Viuda Mountain Range, some 300 km northeast of Lima. The Lima-Huarochiri Highway, which passes south of Lima and goes to the central region, has been severed by the flooding caused by the Canetem River and the residential suburb Cieneguilla, in southern Lima, has also been severely damaged.

SEMIP OFFICIALS DISCUSS OIL PRICES WITH ALGERIAN

FL151539 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City,14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Sadek Boussena, secretary general of Algeria's Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries, said here today that Algeria is willing to keep its production of hydrocarbons low in order to protect the current price of crude oil. During a working meeting with Eliseo Mendoza Barrueto, secretary of energy in the Secretariat of Energy, Mines and Parastatal Industries (SEMIP), the Algerian official said that Mexico is in a good international position, and as a consequence, Algeria wants to learn Mexico's opinions and to increase its bilateral petroleum cooperation with Mexico. He stressed that the petroleum-producing countries should seek sources of energy and ways to save energy.

Mendoza Barrueto cautioned the hydrocarbon-producing countries to take care in the future to stabilize the petroleum market, which is currently precarious. He said that abrupt price changes on the world's crude oil market do not benefit anyone and they can lead to the deterioration of the balance that has been established by producers and consumers.

He emphasized that since 1983 Mexico's petroleum policy has been characterized by a willingness to carry on an expanded dialogue with all petroleum producing countries. Also attending the meeting were Donacio Tamez, Pemex undersecretary of trade, and Nur ad-Din Yazid Zerhoumi, Algerian ambassador to Mexico.

LABASTIDA CALLS FOR MINING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

FL111540 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Francisco Labastida Ochoa, secretary of energy, mines, and parastatal industries (SEMIP), today called for increased efforts to promote the development of the nation's mining industry, which generates regional development, capital, and employment for low-income groups.

At the board of directors meeting of the Committee for Mining Development [Comision de Fomento Minero], Labastida Ochoa said that in 14 months, this group has overcome its problems through a reorganization and increased efficiency.

Luis de Pablo, chairman of the committee, said that during 1983, 2.3 billion pesos (more than $1 million dollars) worth of credits were granted to small and medium-sized miners. This figure was a 120-percent increase over the 1982 financing figure. De Pablo added that last year resources for this industry were directed to the main mining areas, particularly in the states of Sonora, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, and Coahuila (in northern Mexico) where the number of mining installations [plantas] was increased from 14 to 21.

PSUM WEEKLY PROVIDES FORUM FOR INTERNAL DEBATE

For a presentation of differing party views on internal democracy in the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) published in Mexico City in the 11-17 November 1983 issue of the PSUM organ ASI ES, see the 9 January JPRS LATIN AMERICA REPORT (JPRS-LAM-84-004), pp 143-47.

ILLUECA MEETS WITH CABINET, COMPTROLLER

PA152349 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] President Jorge Illueca today held a working lunch with his cabinet and the comptroller general of the republic. Those who resigned from their cabinet posts in the last few hours were also invited.

The chief of state and close aides reviewed current national events and delineated the strategies to be pursued to fulfill government programs for this year and step up the state's production pace.

Ministers Interviewed

PA160023 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] President Jorge Illueca today held a working luncheon with several cabinet ministers. Televisora Nacional interviewed several of the ministers as they left the luncheon. The first was Raul Rolando Rodriguez Porcell, who resigned from his post.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What was discussed during the luncheon?

[Rodriguez] This was a cordial luncheon, virtually a family-like luncheon.

[Reporter] Almost family-like? So no personnel changes are expected today? There is nothing about this yet?

[Rodriguez] Well, I don't know. I have submitted to the president a letter placing my post at his disposal, and I feel that he will make the best possible decision. He must have a cabinet he has confidence in, and I hope this situation will soon be defined. [end recording]

Carlos Clement, former public works minister, also attended today's luncheon at the palace to brief President Illueca on details of his work.

[Begin recording] [Clement] I received a kind invitation to lunch from President Jorge Illueca, stating that even though I had resigned he wanted me to be here during the luncheon. I established a good friendship with him during the 160 days I was in charge of the ministry. I briefed him on all matters pending at the Public Works Ministry. I wanted to do this as a Panamanian, for my country.

I came here, had lunch with him, saw all my fellow cabinet members, and said farewell to them. I will return to my office, where I have spent 16 years. [end recording]

Cabinet To Be Announced

PA160121 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Panama City, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- More than 2 days have gone by since the former Panamanian president resigned, and the new president, Jorge Illueca, has not yet formed his cabinet.

Sources close to the Palace of the Herons (presidential palace) have said that the names of the 12 ministers will be announced tonight or tomorrow.

Six of former Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella's cabinet ministers have resigned. Three of them presented "irrevocable" resignations.

Gaspar Garcia de Paredes, minister of health; Mario de Diego, minister of the presidency; and Raul Rodriguez Porcell, minister of housing, have placed their ministries at the government's disposal.

Gabriel Castro, minister of finance and treasury; Carlos Hoffman, minister of commerce and industries; and Carlos Clement, minister of public works, presented their "irrevocable" resignations as soon as De la Espriella's yet unexplained resignation was announced.

Today President Jorge Illueca was visited at the Palace of the Herons by the ambassadors of five countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, Egypt, and Cyprus), and according to presidential sources, his daily activities were carried out in a normal fashion.

On the day he was sworn in by the Supreme Court of Justice, Illueca stated that the elections scheduled for 6 May would be held and added that his cabinet would be reorganized in the next few hours.

Unofficial sources said that Illueca today met with members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party and other people to discuss the names of those who will form his cabinet.

According to the Constitution, the presidential term will end on 11 October 1984. (According to the Constitution, the president chosen in the 6 May elections will be sworn in on that day.)

The sources also said that there were some difficulties because candidates for cabinet posts had refused to hold public office for such a short time, and others are actively participating in the electoral campaign, having already been proposed for office. According to the Constitution, many public offices cannot be held for 6 months prior to the elections by those aspiring to fill them. These offices are those of the presidency, vice presidency, legislator, mayor, and corregimiento representative.

On Monday De la Espriella presented a terse resignation to the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives which, after being discussed by the Supreme Court of Justice, was accepted. Immediately after the acceptance Illueca was sworn in.

According to sources close to the former president, he is still in Panama. However, he has yet to explain his resignation.

Resignation Rumor Denied

PA160106 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0053 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Panama City, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Jorge Illueca, the new Panamanian president, had a day of "intense work" today, said an official spokesman in reply to rumors that the president, who took office 48 hours ago, had resigned.

Jose Hernandez, director general of the Presidential Information and Public Relations, said that Illueca held meetings with "all" the cabinet ministers and received the credentials of several ambassadors, including those of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Ecuador.

The new president is holding consultations to form a new cabinet, since five ministers submitted their resignations, official sources confirmed.

A rumor of the president's resignation started, according to unofficial sources, with the actual resignation of his brother, Anibal Illueca, from the post of adviser to the previous president. The 65-year-old Illueca assumed the presidency last Monday after the unexplained resignation of Ricardo de la Espriella.

CONTENDER FOR PRD NOMINATION REPORTS THREATS

PA160251 Paris AFP in Spanish 2222 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Panama City, 15 Feb (AFP) -- Ernesto Perez Balladares, the main opponent to Nicolas Ardito Barletta's presidential nomination by the official Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] charged today that he has been threatened with exile if he does not withdraw his bid for the PRD nomination. Perez reiterated during a news conference that he will submit his candidacy to the PRD's national convention on 25 February 1984.

Perez said that he had just received a message warning him that he would be arrested "if he talked" or sent into exile if he insisted on seeking the nomination on 25 February. "If this is so, then we have a farce, and there is no democracy in Panama," he asserted.

Perez was a cabinet minister under General Omar Torrijos and PRD secretary general until 12 months ago, when he resigned over differences with General Ruben Dario Paredes, former National Guard commander, who was the virtual official candidate at that time.

Perez said he will abide only by the final decision of the PRD convention, noting that he rejects the method of "imposition instead of consultation and dialogue."

According to the political leader, Ardito Barletta's candidacy is illegal because it violates the PRD's bylaws, which clearly state that a candidate must have been a member of the PRD for 12 months prior to seeking an elective post.

Perez, who reportedly has the support of more than half of the 6,000 PRD convention delegates and is an avowed follower of the ideas of Omar Torrijos, the late Panamanian head of government, said that Ardito Barletta's candidacy "is neither Torrijist nor of national unity." According to Perez, Ardito Barletta's nomination "replaces the plan designed by the late leader with a project that failed in 1968, when the armed forces found themselves forced to interfere in political life."

He charged that the three-man slate presented by the PRD leadership, composed of Ardito Barletta, [Eric Arturo] Delvalle, and [Roderick] Esquivel, "is based on decisions adopted through secret compromises," and "is only an electioneering formula" which the 6,000 convention delegates will find hard to accept. "I demand respect for the party's internal democracy," he stressed.

Regarding the resignation of former President Ricardo de la Espriella on Monday, Perez expressed concern because, he said, "there has been no known statement from him, nor has any news about him been published by any of the several newspapers under state control. [Quotation marks as received]

The presidential hopeful said that following Torrijos' death, the Panamanian National Guard, the country's only armed force, changed the policy of withdrawal to its garrisons to one he described as "dis-withdrawal," noting that this means "a return to the past."

"They have not even won the elections and yet are already dividing the political body among themselves, against the people's interests and at the expense of the country," the politician said in conclusion.

EDITORIAL SCORES SLANDEROUS CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

PA152145 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Let the People Judge"]

[Text] Every Panamanian who heard Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta speak surely observed that he does not resort to foul language or insults or in any way attack the dignity of others. This is indicative of the type of campaign the noted Panamanian economist intends to conduct, a campaign conforming to the standards of a cultured, respectful man who was brought up to observe the rules of courtesy and proper manners.

By contrast, many of Dr Ardito Barletta's opponents have resorted to vulgar diatribe, insults, and slander. This reveals their character and shows that they are not known for proper etiquette, which must be displayed both in the upcoming electoral campaign and in all other aspects of life.

The above criticism is directed particularly at some radio commentators, who disrespectfully call Dr Barletta names, which he does not deserve either as a politician or as a person. This clearly shows the moral baseness of these persons. These are generally frustrated people who, if subjected to public scrutiny, would not survive the first analysis, since their shady lives are common knowledge.

It will be up to the public to decide who upholds the rules of decency and who does not. Barletta's opponents should know that the people of the revolutionary process also have weapons. Should they continue their insults, our response will be overwhelming; we have at our disposal all resources needed to defeat those holding a weak, hollow position.

EL SALVADOR

RIVERA Y DAMAS ON REFUGEES, VIOLENCE

PA150442 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 3

[Excerpt] Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas has expressed support for the Salvadoran refugees' request to the Honduran Government that it reconsider its decision to relocate them in Olanchito, Yoro Department. Msgr Rivera y Damas expressed this support in his Sunday homily at the Cathedral (San Salvador), when he mentioned that he had received many letters from fellow countrymen who have asked him to intervene with the Honduran Government and the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees so that their situation may be reconsidered.

On the country's violence, the monsignor said: "This week the archbishopric's Legal Assistance Office reported 117 deaths, which took place in the following ways: 4 have been blamed on the guerrillas; 6 were inflicted by the death squads; 41 were casualties admitted by the Army; and 77 died in clashes and various operations. Obviously the number of deaths inflicted by the death squads has declined considerably, but some deaths are still being inflicted."

PPS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE STRESSES HONESTY

PA160148 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1515 GMT 15 Feb 84

["Voice and Image of the Central Electoral Council" program: statement by guest speaker Francisco Quinonez Avila, presidential candidate for the Salvadoran Popular Party, PPS, during a roundtable of presidential candidates held at the Salvadoran Center for Legal Studies on 24 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] This afternoon I would like to express the viewpoints of the Salvadoran Popular Party [PPS] and the viewpoints that I, as a presidential candidate, am defending and will continue to defend during the current presidential electoral campaign.

First of all, I wish to deal with subjects generally. I would like to express the political views of the PPS, because this is closely related to the topics under discussion. From the political viewpoint, the PPS proposes a representative, republican, democratic system that is fair, honest, and orderly, a system that will guarantee the true interdependence of power and that is eminently progressive and pragmatic.

Corruption is probably one of the most serious problems burdening the Salvadoran people since the 1960's. This is why the PPS and I personally have decided to give the campaign a very special meaning. We have said that what this country and what our people need is a moral revolution. This has to be the cornerstone of good government. We believe that a moral revolution would solve the problem of corruption, and for this we would really have to practice an interdependence of power. I said it earlier, and now I repeat it. In the past power has been concentrated in a few hands. Whoever has had a turn at running the country did as he pleased. There has been no balance or counterbalance. There was no legislative branch to control the executive branch or a judicial branch to control the legislative and executive branches. Corruption began because of this absence of real interdependence of power. We believe that the real strength of interdependence of power is one of the main aspects of the solution to this problem.

When we speak of a moral revolution and of the weapons for this moral revolution becoming a reality as of 26 March, we are speaking of the vote. We believe in the vote as the main weapon for a democracy, and we believe that on 26 March the people must use this weapon to give the people and their government honesty and morals. We believe in repeating the word morals, even though some may feel that this does not solve problems. We, the PPS, do feel that this is essential to solve the problem of corruption, because corruption began when the government and the parties that support the government lost their morals.

Regarding the system of justice in El Salvador and the problem of justice, I would like to say that justice means that each person has the right to his own, and it is up to the state, the judicial branch, to see that this is respected. We have not had this in this country. Unfortunately, what we have been seeing here is much injustice. Regarding Salvadoran justice we could ask: Justice, justice, how many crimes have been committed on your behalf in El Salvador?

We have already mentioned that in the past the rulers have dominated the various branches. During the 1960's and 1970's we experienced an apparent democracy. We had three government branches, but one of these controlled the others. During the de facto government of 1980 the junta controlled one of the branches and appointed the other, therefore it controlled the three branches. Once these three branches can again work together, we will be able to say that there is an administration with justice in El Salvador. We believe that this is essential for the progress of the people.

Many of us have spoken on this subject [violence], and I am sure we will continue speaking about it. Most of us agree on the solutions to this problem; there are some, however, who insist that the problem of violence in our country will be resolved exclusively by economic progress. Others believe that distributing everything will solve the problem. Others believe that force and a military victory will solve the problem. Others endorse dialogue, while yet others strongly believe that human rights will solve the problem. We don't believe that the violence can be eliminated by these isolated factors. We believe that all of these factors together, added to the daily practice of a democratic process, will solve the problem of violence. We will solve the problem of violence when we all participate in a democratic process, when we have a law that can be described as a blind woman who has no preferences -- a law that will not favor the man in uniform, the rich, or a political group with aspirations to rule, a law with absolutely no bias, a law that will be totally impartial. Only then will we begin to solve the problem of violence.

This is why the PPS has always said -- we said it back in 1979 before the coup d'etat -- ballots, not bullets. Votes, because we believe in the real democratic process, and not bullets, because they mean destruction, death, violence, and war.

Unfortunately, and we have to be very honest about this, there are Salvadorans who in the past were members of parties described as democratic and who today are cursing the system. This is unfortunate, because if these people would come down from the mountains I would be the first to ask that they be incorporated into the democratic process, that they be given the opportunity to become members of democratic parties, and that they participate with the people in the construction of the country. Only then will we begin to live in democracy and peace. I believe that the upcoming elections are very important. For the first time we are going to choose a president with the ballot. We cannot give the people a fraudulent solution. We must be honest, and to emphasize this phrase I am going to use a word that my professional experience allows me to use. I am going to use a term that I am sure you will all understand. Being honest in this country is good business.

It is a good business for all Salvadorans to be honest. Why? Because by being honest in the democratic process and the electoral process we shall overcome the problem of violence. By being honest I don't mean only respecting the electoral results. That was the case in 1982. I believe that the results must be applied, and this will be something new in this electoral process. I believe that all of you understand that by solving the problem of corruption we eradicate injustice from the system. By solving or beginning to solve the problem of justice and application of justice in El Salvador and by having begun to seek solutions and to eradicate violence we will experience an accelerated economic process; we will have a real economic reactivation.

CLASHES AT CHALATENANGO, COASTAL HIGHWAY REPORTED

Rebels Claim Chalatenango Victory

PA152324 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] The dictatorship's puppet army has retreated from Chalatenango Department without reaching any of its objectives. We repeat: The dictatorship's army has retreated from Chalatenango without reaching any of its objectives. We inform all our people that the dictatorship's troops retreated from Chalatenango Department yesterday, 13 February.

Correspondent Dies in Chalatenango

PA152251 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Radio Farabundo Marti must report to our people with deep sorrow and revolutionary pride the fall in combat of one of people's correspondents. Our young correspondent, Companero Rogelio Godinez, was only 17 years old. He served with revolutionary efficiency and enthusiasm as a correspondent for Radio Farabundo Marti on the Modesto Ramirez Central Front from 1982 to 1983. Companero Rogelio Godinez was a genuine war correspondent, a reporter, a public relations man, and a revolutionary agent of the people, and as such he died on 12 February in Chalatenango, in the trenches of the battlefront of our heroic people's army.

Clash on Coastal Highway

PA160152 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The following report has been received from the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front, San Agustin Tres Calles zone: On Wednesday, 15 February, at 0500 FMLN forces took control of part of the Coastal Highway near the (Ildamar) Hacienda. An enemy patrol from Tierra Blanca arrived at 0930, and a clash that lasted approximately 15 minutes occurred. The enemy suffered 5 dead and an undetermined number of wounded during the clash. A G-3 rifle and a 38-caliber pistol were recovered. Our forces withdrew without problems. This message was sent to us by Commander Roberto Jimenez.

CORRECTION TO EDITORIAL CONSIDERS SHULTZ REMARKS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Editorial Considers Shultz' Remarks on Elections" on page P 2 of the 13 February Latin America DAILY REPORT:

Fourth paragraph, line two should read: ...States was neutral about who won the elections, it was not neutral about the democratic... (supplying dropped words)

HONDURAS

SUAZO NOTE TO VENEZUELA'S LUSINCHI STRESSES TIES

PA151740 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Relations between Honduras and Venezuela have become closer in recent years as a result of greater interdependence and the strengthening of the fraternal bonds that have always united us. This is stated in a letter that new Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi has sent to Honduran President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova. He said: It is my ardent desire to see these excellent ties further strengthened during your administration. Honduras and Venezuela have common interests to defend. We share your belief in justice and freedom. We favor the development of politically, economically, and socially democratic systems.

President Suazo told his Venezuelan counterpart that Honduras is committed to the search for a peaceful resolution of the Central American crisis, to the reestablishment of national security, and to the promotion of international cooperation for the development of our nations.

These common objectives are resulting in improved, fruitful relations between our two peoples and governments, said Suazo in his letter to Venezuelan President Lusinchi on 8 February.

BELIZEAN PRIME MINISTER PRICE TO VISIT 23 FEB

PA151713 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Report by Regina Osorio]

[Text] Belizean Prime Minister George Price will arrive in Honduras on 23 February to meet with the president of the republic, the commander of the Armed Forces, and other authorities, according to Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica.

[Begin recording] [Paz] We have invited Belizean Prime Minister George Price, who is also the defense minister, to make an official visit to our country. He has accepted the invitation and will arrive on 23 February. He will stay in Tegucigalpa for 2 days, during which he will meet with the president of the republic, the commander of the Armed Forces, the secretary of the presidential office, the foreign secretary, and other Honduran representative sectors to discuss issues of common interest.

[Osorio] Will you discuss the Zapotiyos Cays problem?

[Paz] This is one of the topics to be discussed with our guest, who is the prime minister and defense minister of a country with which Honduras maintains cordial relations. In these times, it is necessary to strengthen relations with Belize, which basically forms part of Central America, which has direct links with the Caribbean, and which should expand ties with Central American countries. [end recording]

The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group countries will also visit Honduras and other countries in the area, Dr Paz Barnica indicated.

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH CHERNENKO

PA151937 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, yesterday met with Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko and reiterated the condolences of the Sandinist government and the Nicaraguan people over the demise of Yuriy Andropov.

During the meeting, Chernenko and Commander Ortega discussed the Central American crisis, which is related to the aggressive U.S. policy, especially against the Sandinist revolution. Commander Ortega emphasized the Nicaraguan Government's efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Central American conflict. The following statement was made by Commander Daniel Ortega in Moscow:

[Begin recording] This meeting has also allowed us to (?discuss) Central American problems, which are linked to the aggressive U.S. policy in Central America, particularly against the Nicaraguan people, to whom it is trying to deny the right to the freedom that they won with so much effort and sacrifice.

We also discussed Nicaragua's efforts to defend the revolution, which are mainly being made by the working class; its efforts to achieve economic development despite its great limitations; and the effects of the aggressive U.S. policy both through the loss of Nicaraguan lives and on Nicaragua's economy.

We also emphasized Nicaragua's peace efforts, the dialogue that it has been promoting, and the growing backing it has received from Latin America and the whole world, which has entailed the isolation of the interventionist U.S. policy.

We must also note in this regard that Nicaragua has insisted that the United States must take concrete steps to ease tensions in Central America because all it has done lately has been to take steps in the opposite direction, that is, to take steps in favor of escalating military actions in Central America.

We found Companero Chernenko very receptive, as is usually the case with Soviet leaders, to the problems faced by Central America, and particularly by Nicaragua; and once again he reiterated the solidarity of the CPSU and the Soviet Government and people with the FSLN and the Nicaraguan Government and people. [end recording]

STATE COUNCIL DEBATES MEASURES FOR ELECTIONS

Council President Comments

PA151752 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Carlos Nunez, commander of the revolution and president of the State Council, yesterday said that the country's defence and economy must be considered during an electoral process, as must political and economic criteria, and, above all, the defense of our country. Commander Nunez referred to the traditional parties' proposal to hold elections first for a constituent assembly, to be followed by elections for president and vice president.

Opposition Rejects Amendments

PA151656 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The State Council today will continue the debate on amendments to the country's Fundamental Statute. Following 10 and 1/2 hours of heated debate yesterday, the State Council agreed to continue, at 1000 today, the fifth special meeting dealing with amendments to the Fundamental Statute. The legislative organization's special commission presented a draft document on amendments to Articles 9, 10, and 28 regarding the election of the country's vice president and national assembly.

The Social Christian Party, Communist Party of Nicaragua, Nicaraguan Conservative Party, Constitutionalist Liberal Party, Social Democratic Party, and Labor Action and Unity Federation opposed the draft bill, which proposes the election of a constituent assembly.

While the majority of the organizations represented at the State Council are supporting the proposal, these parties have voiced their opposition throughout the debates. The Social Democrats, Constitutionalist Liberals, Communists, Social Christians, and Conservatives refuse to accept the negative economic consequences of convoking a constituent assembly and 2 years later holding presidential and vice presidential elections. It is the first time in the State Council's history that a meeting will extend its debates.

Onofre Guevara said yesterday at the State Council that attacks on Nicaragua should cease. He was countering the position of the traditional parties' representatives at the State Council, who had said that it was necessary to seek a national reconciliation dialogue and the cessation of the national state of emergency. Onofre Guevara, FSLN delegate, said: Why don't these representatives request that the United States suspend its aggressive stance toward Nicaragua? Onofre said that the politicians from the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Coordinating Board are asking for the annulment of laws that defend the revolution's achievements. After so many years of ignominy, Onofre said, how can they demand that we elect a constituent assembly without considering the social victories achieved by the revolution? He added that, for these people, a revolution has not taken place here.

Early Elections Rumored

PA160228 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0125 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Managua, 15 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- Political sources today said that Nicaragua's leftist government is considering holding elections before November in fear that President Ronald Reagan, if reelected, will promote greater rebel attacks with U.S. support.

The ruling FSLN, which has promised to announce the date of the elections on Tuesday, refused to comment on the possibility that the elections will be held before 1985, as previously stated. However, the sources said that the Nicaraguan leaders could push forward the date of the elections in fear of greater attacks by exiled rebels, which could affect the national elections.

The U.S. Congress has approved $24 million in aid for 1984 for the rebels who launch attacks from bases in Honduras in an effort to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government, which achieved power by means of a revolution in 1979 after the overthrow of the late rightist dictator Anastasio Somoza.

In a related fact, the Nicaraguan State Council today approved the electoral law bill. Four opposition parties voted against it. The bill presented by the governing junta comprised of nine members [as received] and supported by the pro-government Nicaraguan Socialist Party provides for the election in 1985 of a president, vice president, and a constituent assembly comprised of 90 members.

The opposition parties -- the Social Democratic Party, the Social Christian Party, the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, and the Communist Party of Nicaragua -- want to elect only a constituent assembly in 1985 to govern for 2 years and to draft a constitution.

Council Amends Fundamental Statute

PA160339 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] We Nicaraguans will elect a president, a vice president, and a national assembly in the 1985 elections. This was established today by the State Council when it amended the country's Fundamental Statute during the fifth meeting of its special session.

Through an amendment to Article 28 of the Fundamental Statute, the majority of the State Council decided that the president, the vice president, and the government will have a term of 6 years, counted from the date set by the Government Junta for its installation established in the call for elections.

In addition, the president of the republic will have the same powers as the Government Junta as long as a political constitution is not promulgated. The vice president will exercise the functions delegated to him by the president and will replace the president in case of temporary or definitive absence.

As for the national assembly of 90 representatives, it will also have a term of 6 years, as established in the amendments to the Fundamental Statute that were approved by the majority of the State Council.

Further on Amendments

PA160351 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] A total of five articles of the country's Fundamental Statute were amended today by an overwhelming majority at the State Council.

The first article to be amended was Article 9, which now provides that the state branches will be the Government Junta, the State Council, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the Supreme Electoral Council.

Article 10 was also amended. It provides that the Government Junta will continue to exercise the powers of the executive branch and will share the powers of the legislative branch with the State Council until the president, the vice president, and the 90-member national assembly assume office.

Meanwhile, the amendments to Article 18 indicate that the drafting of the electoral law will be a function of the State Council.

Through an amendment to Article 28 of the Fundamental Statute, it was established that voting during elections for president, vice president and the 90-member national assembly for a period of 6 years will be popular, direct, and secret.

The same article states that the national assembly will be empowered to draft a constitution and that the Supreme Electoral Council will be the organ charged with carrying out everything concerning the electoral process, as determined by the electoral law.

FDN'S CHAMORRO DISCUSSES REORGANIZATION

PA150435 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 11

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The counterrevolutionary Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, is reorganizing its ranks to eliminate the Somozists, Dr Edgar Chamorro Coronel told TIEMPO yesterday.

The leader of the clandestine guerrilla organization said: "There is no longer a general staff; we have a civilian-military leadership structure led by Adolfo Calero Portocarrero." The other members are Enrique Bermudez, Indalecio Rodriguez and Edgar Chamorro Coronel.

The FDN's new military structure includes a national commander and regional commanders, who are in charge of the various task forces. The task forces, consisting of 250 men each, are the Nicarao, the Segovia, the Diriangen, the San Jacinto, the Jorge Salazar and the Rafaela Herrera.

The purpose of this reorganization is "to begin to shape a civilian-military government in Nicaraguan territory," Dr Chamorro Coronel said. The reorganization also seeks to promote the rightist guerrillas' struggle against the revolutionary government in Managua, the anti-Sandinist leader said.

He also announced that large-scale guerrilla activities would be staged in the future, similar to those that were carried out against Puerto Sandino, La Pelota Island, Corinto and Potosi. He said that these actions were helpful to the Contadora Group's efforts, because they softened the attitude of the Nicaraguan Government.

Dr Chamorro Coronel added that recently "Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda has become the champion of the Sandinists in Central America." He said that Mexico has managed to neutralize Costa Rica in change for a promise from the Sandinists that they will adopt a moderate attitude and will follow the example of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, of Mexico.

Meanwhile, Guatemala has been isolated from the rest of Central America, he pointed out, because of Mexico's promise to keep the Guatemalan refugees in Mexican territory under control. Chamorro Coronel explained that there are more than 100,000 Guatemalan refugees in southern Mexico and that there are some guerrillas among them.

He indicated that a solution to the problem that Nicaragua represents for Central America seemed possible a few months ago, but he said that things have now changed.

He expressed support for a political solution to the region's crisis because he feels that Central America's unity has been broken. In his opinion, this is because of Costa Rica's military neutrality and Guatemala's isolation.

He said that Guatemala no longer participates in the consensus represented by its neighbors, having changed its attitude because of the pressure exerted by Mexico. Nevertheless, he stressed, the FDN will continue its actions against the Nicaraguan Government.

He declared that the FDN leadership structure has been reorganized in an effort to erase all traces of Somoza's National Guard and to open the doors to unification with the other fighting groups.

Among those who have been purged from the FDN's ranks are Edgar Hernandez, Hugo Villagra, Mario Morales, Alcibiades Espinales, Manuel Caceras and others who have been accused of showing interest in returning Nicaragua to the system used by dictator Anastasio Somoza, Chamorro Coronel, who was accompanied by his assistant Frank Arana, told TIEMPO.

ARDE WAR BULLETIN REPORTS CLASHES, CASUALTIES

PA160307 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua in Spanish to Nicaragua 0100 GMT 15 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 172, issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in "the mountains of Nicaragua," on 14 February]

[Text] The General Command of the ARDE Armed Forces reports to the Nicaraguan people and to the free peoples of the world:

1. On 5 February 1984, at 1400 the (Alvaro Lopez Castillo) Column, which is part of the Barba 4 Unit, under the command of Companeros Pajaro and Gavilan, engaged in a 1 and 1/2-hour clash with the interventionist army at El Cacao, in the jurisdiction of San Miguelito, inflicting on the enemy seven dead and several wounded.

2. On 6 February 1984, at 1300 the Mauricio Sanchez Oyon Column, which operates on the (Rivas Isthmus), harassed border troops at the Santa Ana Military Garrison, 12.5 km from La Virgen, in an action that lasted 6 minutes. The leader of the enemy patrol was killed in the clash.

3. On 7 February 1984, at 1100 the (Juan Alberto Zelaya Zelaya) Column, commanded by Companero Ganzo, clashed with a column attempting to surprise an ARDE scout patrol that was under the command of Companero Johnny at (Cano Chiquito) in Punta Gorda. Our column prevented the scout patrol's being overtaken and killed five of the enemy. For our part, we must regret the heroic death of Companero Tico. This clash lasted 1 hour.

4. On 11 February 1984, at 1400 the Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column, commanded by Companero Gorda, ambushed a Sandinist People's Army patrol in a 15-minute clash at El Guineo, Punta Gordo jurisdiction, inflicting on the enemy three dead and five wounded.

5. On 12 February 1984, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column, which is part of the Zacaritas Rivas Unit, under the command of Companero Chachalaco, harassed [words indistinct] (Macateado) in the jurisdiction of Punta Gorda, for 1 hour, inflicting eight confirmed dead on the enemy.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

CASTRO MEETS WITH CHERNENKO, OTHER WORLD LEADERS

FL151806 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met in Moscow with Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Joining in the conversation were Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers; Andrey Gromyko, Soviet minister of foreign affairs; and Konstantin Rusakov, first deputy chairman of the USSR [title as heard].

Chernenko cordially thanked Fidel for the profound condolences expressed on behalf of Cuban communists and all Cuban people on the death of Yuriy Andropov.

The meeting covered matters concerning the development and strengthening of the Cuban-Soviet cooperation.

It was also reported that Comrade Fidel sent a message to Konstantin Chernenko expressing his warmest congratulations on Chernenko's election as general secretary of the CPSU. The text of the message expressed assurances that under Chernenko's guidance, the strengthening of the Soviet defense capacity, relations with developing nations, and the struggle for peace would continue. Thus, Fidel's message expressed confidence that the close relationship between the Soviet Union and Cuba would continue.

It was also reported that Fidel Castro had met in Moscow with India's highest leader, Indira Gandhi, with whom he discussed matters of interest to both countries and to the Nonaligned Movement.

Fidel also held a friendly and cordial meeting with Mengistu Haile-Mariam, president of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE), during which the international situation and matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Other talks were held by our commander in chief in Moscow on the occasion of his presence at the funeral services of Yuriy Andropov. He also met with Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme, Canada's chief executive Pierre Trudeau, and Pakistan's President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Fidel held other meetings with Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO, and with Pascual Luvualu, MPLA-Labor Party Politburo member.

Congratulates Chernenko

FL151457 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1210 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Message addressed to Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, on 14 February]

[Text] Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee:

Dear Comrade Chernenko: On behalf of our party's Central Committee and the Cuban people, I wish to convey to you the warmest and most fraternal congratulations on the occasion of your election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

At a time when the Soviet party and people have just traversed moments of profound sorrow because of the painful loss of Comrade Yuriy Andropov, the confidence in you shown by the CPSU Central Committee by placing in your hands such a high responsibility constitutes proof of the ability of Lenin's party to overcome any type of adversity, consistently guaranteeing the direction of its policy of principles and the continuity of your wise and experienced leadership.

I am sure that the glorious CPSU and all the Soviet people will continue to advance victoriously on the path of the economic and social building of the homeland. I am convinced that under your leadership, the Soviet Union will continue to succeed in the struggle to strengthen its defensive capability, to obtain a growing cohesion and fraternal cooperation among countries of the socialist community, and to strengthen relations with developing countries. It will honorably fulfill its decisive role in the battle for preserving peace and removing the threat of war, being provoked today by the Reagan administration with its adventurous and irresponsible policy of confrontation and arms race.

Dear Comrade Chernenko, I wish to express the certainty that the close and irrevocable ties of friendship uniting our parties, Governments, and peoples will continue to develop.

In the fulfillment of your new mission, we wish to express our everlasting solidarity with the firm and unyielding position of communist and internationalist principles of our party and people of Cuba.

BUSH, CHERNENKO DISCUSS U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

FL160208 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] A dispatch datelined in Moscow has reported that Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received U.S. Vice President George Bush yesterday.

In the talks held at the Kremlin, Bush expressed deep sympathy for the death of Yuriy Andropov on behalf of President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. people. Chernenko thanked Bush for the respect expressed to the memory of the late leader.

In the meeting, the officials discussed the current status of the international situation and the Soviet-U.S. relations. Chernenko stressed that the Soviet foreign policy will continue to be aimed at preventing a nuclear war, consolidating peace, and developing cooperation at an equal level between the countries and their peoples. He said that every effort will be made to defend the security of the Soviet Union and that of its allies.

VEIGA MEETS WITH SOVIET TRADE UNION LEADER

FL151750 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Stepan Shalayev, chairman of the Presidium of the Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, yesterday received Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC].

During the friendly meeting, they exchanged opinions on the work of the two countries' labor organizations. Veiga mentioned the preparations that have been carried out in Cuba for the 15th Congress of the CTC, which Shalayev stated he would attend at the head of a delegation from the Soviet trade unions.

HUNGARY'S SZUROS HOLDS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

Meets With Risquet

FL151537 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1210 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and Secretariat, and Matyas Szuros, secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] Central Committee, have held official talks at the Central Committee main offices in Havana.

Participating in the talks for the Cuban side were Rafael Polanco and Humberto Hernandez, first deputy chief and an official of the Central Committee Foreign Relations Department, respectively. The Hungarian delegation was made up of (Anton Solyom), an official of the MSZMP Central Committee's Department of International Relations, and Istvan Bognar, ambassador of that European country to Cuba.

During the talks, which were held in a fraternal atmosphere be fitting the close relations between the Cuban and Hungarian peoples, matters dealing with the economic, social, and political development of the two countries and cooperation and exchanges in various spheres were discussed.

Risquet referred to Cuba's gains in 1983 and measures adopted to fulfill tasks in response to the eighth party congress resolution. Szuros explained the main activities being carried out by the Hungarian workers to step up the development of the country's economy. Also discussed were bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest.

Discusses Ties With Pineiro

FL160225 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Manuel Pineiro Losada, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee, has received Matyas Szuros, secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee, and the delegation he heads. In talks that were held in a friendly climate, befitting the close relations between the Cuban and Hungarian people, they discussed aspects of the economic, political, and social development of the two countries.

Pineiro Losada referred to the importance of this visit, noting that it strengthens the ties between the two states at every level. Szuros explained the main activities that Hungarian workers are carrying out to develop the country's economy. They also exchanged views on the international situation, particularly the aggressive imperialist policy throughout the world.

ECUADOR'S SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT ARRIVES

FL151554 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The president of the Ecuadoran Supreme Court of Justice, Dr Carlos Pozo Montes de Oca, has just arrived in Havana, heading a delegation of magistrates invited by the Supreme People's Tribunal of Cuba.

CABRISAS OUTLINES TRADE OBJECTIVES WITH JAPAN

FL150250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas has outlined eight important objectives for the development of relations with Japan at the opening of the Seventh Bilateral Economic Conference. The conference will last until 16 February and is attended by executives from 117 Japanese firms.

These objectives give priority to the reinstatement of official guarantees for [Cuban] exports and the re-establishment of appropriate levels for bank deposits and long-term financing. They also include the need for advice in the development of Cuban exports and an increased Japanese participation in this activity and in imports, as well as in the process of investments of the 1986-1990 Cuban Plan and in scientific, technical, and touristic cooperation.

The Cuban minister stressed that Cuba was not hurt by the acute crisis affecting world economy and trade because of profound structural changes made in our country in the past 25 years. Cabrisas pointed to Japan's drop from first to third place among capitalist countries which have trade relations with Cuba, despite the interest shown by Japanese companies. He also advised that this was the appropriate moment to act in order to ensure a greater participation as a supplier during the next 5-year period.

UNICEF PRESIDENT ARRIVES, WILL SIGN AGREEMENT

FL151538 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Upon arrival in Havana, UNICEF President (Haydee) Martinez called attention to the international recognition earned by Cuban progress in the field of public health. The UNICEF president stated that she is visiting Cuba to personally study the progress of plans that UNICEF sponsors in Cuba. She also stated that she expects to sign a cooperation agreement, adding that this agreement will be principally related to the care of mothers and children, environmental improvement, and nutrition.

PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT NOMINATIONS BEGIN 15 FEB

FL151344 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] In the more than 10,900 electoral districts, everything is ready for nominations to begin today of candidates for delegates to the municipal assemblies of the People's Government. This is the fourth time this process has taken place since it began in 1976.

Mass organizations have conducted an intensive information campaign to increase participation in neighborhood meetings, which are considered valid if more than 50 percent of local voters attend.

During this important phase of our electoral process, a minimum of two candidates and a maximum of eight must be selected in each electoral district. The masses will vote on 15 and 22 April for delegates to the municipal assemblies of the People's Government.

FMLN SUCCESSES REPORTED IN EL SALVADOR

FL151504 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The FMLN has occupied another town in the department of Usulutan. Army spokesmen have recognized that guerrilla forces control no fewer than 18 zones in different parts of that Central American nation.

Rebel commandos occupied the town of Villa El Triunfo for more than 2 hours after the local garrison abandoned it and fled.

Radio Farabundo Marti has reported that guerrilla columns have occupied a large farm belonging to a known supporter of the regime in the Department of La Libertad.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA WILLING TO NEGOTIATE PEACE

FL160157 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, has reiterated his country's willingness to negotiate peace with the U.S. Government, which he described as responsible for tension in Central America.

In exclusive remarks to [Colombia's] Radio CARACOL Network, Ortega warned that Nicaragua will not take (?unilateral) steps because the defense of dignity, values, and the revolution comes first.

The Nicaraguan leader called for opposition to the installation of U.S. bases in neighboring countries, and noted that the new maneuvers that the United States is planning to conduct in Honduras must be prevented. He added that Nicaragua is receiving weapons -- many of them donated -- for its defense. He explained that this aid is pluralist because it originates in nations with different political regimes.

MEXICAN DEPUTY TALKS WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL

FL160140 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Mexican Deputy Humberto Lugo said in Moscow today that the Kissinger report on the Central American situation does not coincide with Mexico's foreign policy.

Lugo, heading the Mexican delegation to Andropov's funeral, held a press conference at which he expressed his satisfaction over meetings held with Soviet officials and stated that the relations between the two countries are at their highest level.

Asked about the chances for success of the Contadora Group, of which Mexico is a member, he said that it has received great support throughout the world in its effort to reach a political solution to the Central American conflict. The Contadora Group's efforts were one of the points covered in conversations between the Mexican delegation and Aleksey Shitikov, chairman of the USSR's Soviet of the Union.

COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING

FL160240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Colombian Defense Minister Gustavo Matamoros D'Acosta announced today in Bogota that plans are being implemented with the Venezuelan Armed Forces to fight drug trafficking. Matamoros D'Acosta, who left Caracas today, said that the two countries will also carry out coordinated actions against guerrilla operations on the border.

During his meeting with Venezuelan Defense Minister General Humberto Alcalde, Matamoros D'Acosta said that they will conduct a thorough study of antidrug legislation existing in the two countries. According to reports issued in Bogota, Venezuelan officials are very concerned over an increase in drug trafficking in their country, and have noted that this trafficking originates in Colombia.

OECS SUMMIT SET FOR ST LUCIA IN LATE FEBRUARY

FL151552 Bridgetown CANA in English 1429 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 15, CANA -- Heads of government of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) will meet here at month's end to discuss a wide range of issues, official sources here said today. The sources said OECS foreign affairs ministers will meet on February 28 and the heads on the following day.

The ministers will seek to ratify recommendations coming out of two meetings of OECS officials here earlier this month.

The agenda includes the future of the East Caribbean Tourism Association, joint diplomatic representation of the Far East, applications from Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands for membership to the OECS, and the establishment of a sports capability within the OECS Secretariat.

GRENADA'S BRATHWAITE ON AID AT AREA MEETING

FL151549 Bridgetown CANA in English 0035 GMT 15 Feb 84

[By David Hume]

[Text] Washington, Feb 14, CANA-REUTER -- The leader of Grenada's interim government, Nicholas Brathwaite, today said he will seek 150 million dollars U.S. in international aid to complete the island's airport and carry out other development projects.

"We will be presenting a two-year economic development package in the region of 150 million dollars," Brathwaite told the sixth meeting of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation and Economic Development sponsored by the World Bank.

The group was established in 1977 to strengthen and coordinate external assistance to 14 Caribbean nations from 18 donor countries and 29 international organisations. Braithwaite said the Grenada proposal included 24 million dollars to complete its 10,000-foot airport, which was being built by Cuba before the U.S.-led invasion last October 25.

President Reagan asserted the airport, for which Grenada has already paid 40 million dollars, would have been used by Cuba and the Soviet Union for military purposes and constituted a threat to U.S. security interests. Brathwaite said he had stressed the need to finish the airport to Secretary of State George Shultz last week.

He said he also had stressed to Shultz, at their meeting in Grenada, the island's continuing need for security and for full employment to create the proper atmosphere for elections. "We are committed to holding free and fair elections before the end of the year," he said.

Admitting to lingering doubts outside Grenada about his provisional government, Braithwaite said: "I want to stress that the interim administration is in control and has not been the subject of any pressure from any source."

Brathwaite said the events of October 19, 1983, when Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and two aides were assassinated, were "traumatic for the people of Grenada."

Asked about Cuba's alleged participation in the events, Brathwaite noted he was not in Grenada at the time but added: "The feeling of the people is that it was likely to be more a Soviet-inspired thing than Cuban." Brathwaite said Grenadians had mixed feelings about former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy's recent return, but admitted his presence had "increased the political tempo." Braithwaite said he was not in a position to comment on Gairy's legal eligibility to participate in elections, although he said he understood a length of residency law would apply.

Before returning to Grenada, Gairy said he would not be participating in the elections, but would support his party.

"Our concern is that people will be free to make their own choice," Brathwaite said.

The World Bank said recipients of aid from the Caribbean group have received over six billion dollars in external capital flows since its founding.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga and St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton said Caribbean nations needed aid to build infrastructure that would allow them to participate in President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

GRENADA

ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR TO MEET WITH CANDIDATES

FL160010 Bridgetown CANA in English 2204 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 15, CANA -- Grenada's newly appointed supervisor of elections, Roy Chasteau, is to have his first meeting next week with those persons expected to contest general elections planned for later in the year.

Chasteau told CANA today that he was calling the meeting -- scheduled for Tuesday -- with the prospective candidates for the elections to discuss among other things the role of "scrutineers" in the enumeration process to begin next month. He said he wanted to get the feeling of those persons wishing to contest the elections on the question of scrutinising the enumeration process because under the laws of Grenada there is no provision for scrutineers to accompany enumerators during the registration of voters. "I am meeting the candidates or their agents to discuss some procedures for their various parties to monitor the enumerators," the British-trained lawyer said. Chasteau said that because of certain setbacks the start of the enumeration process has been rescheduled from March 1 to later in the month.

He said the main reason had to do with the fact that the Grenada legal department and the Barbados electoral office which is preparing a new ordinance for the enumeration were still to complete their work. "The system of enumeration that we had up to the last elections is going to be changed, and we are covering that with an act, and as soon as that is completed our enumeration would start," he added.

During the last elections in December 1976, the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of deposed Prime Minister Eric Gairy won nine of the 15 parliamentary seats.

The other six went to a coalition of opposition groups led by lawyer Maurice Bishop, whose New Jewel Movement (NJM) three years later ousted Gairy in a coup. Bishop himself was killed last October in a bloody military coup here.

AUTHORITIES CONSIDER CASES OF EX-ARMY OFFICERS

Folkes Release Rejected

FL151420 Bridgetown CANA in English 0004 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 14, CANA -- The Grenada authorities have turned down a recommendation from a detention tribunal that the former head of personnel security in the disbanded People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), Ashley Folkes, should be released from detention, according to well-placed government sources.

The sources said Folkes' release was recommended by the three-member detention tribunal after meeting in January to hear an application by the detainee for his release. Folkes is detained at the top security Richmond Hill. He was held during last October's U.S.-led invasion to topple the Army, which had taken power in a bloody coup.

The state-appointed tribunal, headed by magistrate Lyle St Paul, had told the interim government it felt there was not enough evidence to justify keeping Folkes in detention, the sources told CANA. The authorities, the sources added, apparently overlooked the tribunal's recommendation because it was able to obtain "new evidence." Under the legislation governing the tribunal, the body can only recommend the release of detainees but the final decision is with the interim government member responsible for security matters, Nicholas Brathwaite.

Meanwhile, the tribunal today set February 21 to review the case of Don Roberts, another of the nearly 40 detainees at Richmond Hill. The tribunal met briefly under tight security and adjourned because state counsel had commitments in the high court. The diminutive Roberts, a former senior security officer, looked pale and nervous as he emerged from the Supreme Court Building, where the tribunal is hearing. Asked for a comment by CANA, Roberts said his case was serious but declined to comment further.

Roberts Decision Delayed

FL151228 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] A 3-man tribunal has postponed for the third time a decision on whether to release a former officer in the People's Revolutionary Army, suspected of having taken part in last year's coup.

The tribunal, set up by Grenada's interim government to review the cases of more than 30 people arrested by U.S. troops, set February 21 as the date for another hearing on Don Roberts.

Mr Roberts is described as a former top security officer with the now disbanded People's Revolutionary Army.

Among the other detainees still being held without charge at Richmond Hill Prison overlooking St George's are former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, and General Hudson Austin, who are widely believed to have instigated the coup that culminated in the U.S.-led intervention last October.

JAMAICA

SEAGA TO VISIT COSTA RICA, MEET WITH MONGE

FL160015 Bridgetown CANA in English 2208 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 15, CANA -- Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga was today beginning a five day official visit to Costa Rica, fulfilling a long standing invitation from President Luis Alberto Monge, his office here announced. It said Seaga left Washington, where he had been having talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), this morning for San Jose, and will tonight have a working dinner with President Monge.

He is being joined for the visit by junior foreign minister with responsibility for Latin America, Neville Gallimore, and the minister of state for culture, Senator Babsy Grange.

Tomorrow Seaga will have further talks with Monge and other Costa Rican officials covering bilateral relations, trade, economic and technical cooperation, tourism, air transport, and agriculture as well as Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), the official statement said. Tomorrow night, a Jamaican cultural group that is part of the visiting delegation, will give an open air concert in the city of Limon, where there is a large concentration of Jamaican descendents. Seaga will visit the city Friday where he will be met by the governor of the province and also talk to Jamaicans, and on Saturday will tour agricultural projects. Seaga is returning home Sunday.

PNP FEARS LAYOFFS DUE TO IMF RESTRUCTURING PLANS

FL150255 Bridgetown CANA in English 2251 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 14, CANA -- Jamaica's main political opposition, the People's National Party (PNP), is pressing the government here to pledge that it will respect contracts with public sector unions, amid fears here that layoffs are planned under a new aid programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Edward Seaga administration announced last week that in conformity with World Bank accommodations, it was restructuring the public sector to make it more efficient and productive. In a statement Tuesday, the PNP's spokesman on the public service and manpower development, Dr Edwin Jones, said that the manner in which the restructuring programme had been formulated and was being implemented, being led by the minister of finance, "civil servants and the general public are left wondering whether the official aim is to contract the civil service to meet the demands of budgetary constraints."

Jones said that in the restructuring proposals no provisions were made for continuous consultations with the civil service and the general public who would be directly affected by reforms, and stressed that without assurances about security of tenure, public servants could not be expected to perform in a productive manner.

In such circumstances, the PNP wanted the government to assure that "any re-organisation of the civil service will respect the contracts solemnly agreed on between government and public servants, especially given the current economic hardships resulting from the government's policy."

Technicians provided by the World Bank had done management audits in the public sector and had made a number of recommendations which fall in line with the government's policy of structurally adjusting the Jamaican economy, Prime Minister Seaga has said.

However, with Seaga about to enter an arrangement with the IMF for a stand-by credit facility, speculation is rife that the Fund is demanding that the administration shed jobs in order to cut the fiscal deficit, which is now running at over 15 percent of GDP.

Sources here say that the IMF is demanding that the deficit be cut by at least five percent this coming fiscal year, and Seaga hinted last week that he intended to bring it down to five percent over three years. In 1980 the IMF told the former Michael Manley Government to retrench 10,000 state employees if it wanted a stand-by credit after failing tests under an extended fund facility, Manley refused. Fears that the same thing is in the offing have been given currency in recent analyses of the Jamaican economy by bankers here.

Elon Beckford, the managing director of the Jamaica Citizens Bank said, in a weekend speech, that "serious contractions in government expenditure" would result in "substantial layoffs" in the public sector. Beckford said, too, that the government would find it difficult to carry out its promise to maintain subsidies on basic food items up to March 1985, but if this was done it would be "at the expense of something else -- like a few more jobs." Last week, Dr Headley Brown, the chief of the National Planning Agency (NPA) and a member of Jamaica's team negotiating with the IMF, said that there would be "rationalization" of the public sector, but declined to confirm or deny that this would mean lay-offs.

The small Communist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) has accused the prime minister of attempting to use a clever way of disguising "more stinging lashes he is committed to deliver...on behalf of the IMF." "The party calls on the trade unions and staff associations to resist this "restructuring of the livelihood of thousands of workers and their dependents by supporting the WPJ demand for a law against lay-offs," the WPJ said. Such a law, it said, would at the minimum allow workers and their organizations to be fully involved in all discussions which would affect their jobs. In such talks alternatives could be sought to lay-offs.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TRADE UNIONS HOLD FORUM ON ECONOMY, BUDGET

FL131450 Bridgetown CANA in English 2120 GMT 11 Feb 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 11, CANA -- Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago's 27 trade unions were today holding the second session of a forum on the economy and its effects on the country's workers.

The forum is being held at the offices of the Transport and Industrial Workers Union (TIWU), Laventile, east of Port-of-Spain. Delegates attending today's session were studying a paper on the country's 1984 budget presented last month by Prime Minister George Chambers.

The unions, which represent workers from vital sectors, have expressed concern about austerity measures in the local economy, and Chambers' call for wage restraint, in the light of what they say is an increase in the cost of living. Unions have also said they are concerned over reports of retrenchment in industry.

SURINAME

TAX EXPERT SWORN IN AS INTERIM FINANCE MINISTER

FL151202 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] In the South American nation of Suriname, Marcel (Chehan), a tax expert and lawyer, has been sworn in as finance minister in Suriname's new interim government.

The interim body replaces the cabinet fired by military leader Lieutenant Colonel Desi Bouterse last month in the wake of widespread labor strikes and calls for Col Bouterse's resignation.

URUGUAY

PDC CRISIS SOLVED; NEW LEADERS DESIGNATED

PY152050 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The internal crisis in the proscribed Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has been solved. The PDC presidency has been entrusted to accountant (Juan Young), while Doctor (Francisco Jose Otoveli) and Doctor Hector Lezcano have been designated vice president and secretary general, respectively. These changes were caused by the resignation submitted by PDC leaders who disagreed with the way the party was being managed.

The PDC has recently approved some resolutions that imply the establishment of relations with the Broad Front. It has also drawn up a political program that will be proposed to the Front.

There is a consensus that the Broad Front should clearly endorse democracy and that violence should be ruled out as a method of political action.